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ABSTRACT

This report documents the employment status of Virginia Community College System (VCCS) students. In fall 1996, all 24 colleges involved in the study had at least a 50% working student population, and nearly 41% of all VCCS students were working full-time and also taking classes. A profile of business and industry showed that community colleges serve employees from all segments of the Virginia economy, with retail trade being a major employer for younger students. In addition, VCCS students are employed at the majority of Virginia's information and high-technology firms. Major groups in the services sector, the largest employer of VCCS students, include health, business, education, and engineering-management. The study found that 1) though males and females have the same rates of employment, males are more likely to work full-time; 2) if they are working, white, black, and Hispanic students are most likely to have full-time jobs; 3) new students are less likely to be working than returning students; 4) most VCCS students attend class part-time and work full-time, with the percentage of full-time employees increasing with age up to the 60-and-over category; and 5) the 18-21 age group has the highest percentage of working students. (YKH)

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VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Research Report Series

Employment Status of VCCS Students Fall Semester 1996

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Employment Status of VCCS Students Fall Semester 1996

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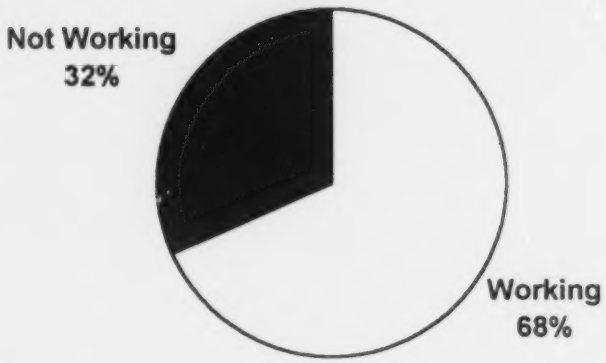
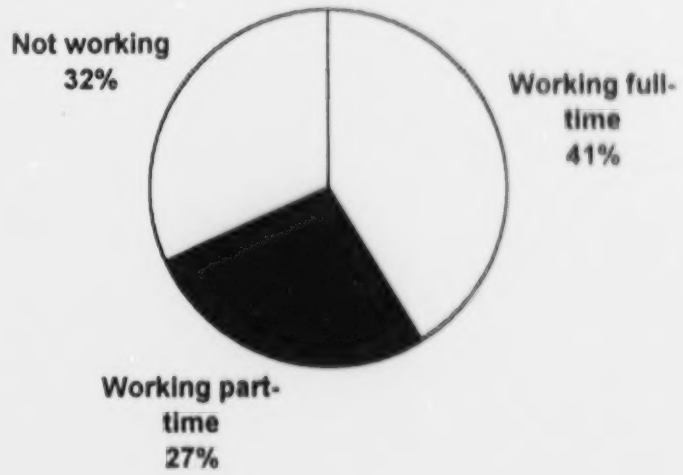
February 1998

Nearly 70 percent of all community college students are working and taking classes at the same time. This was more than 80,000 students in fall 1996.



Of the over 80,000 working, over 60 percent or more than 50,000 students were employed full-time.



Student Employment Status[1]

Students who work and those who are regularly employed as a percent of all fall enrollments:

	Working	Working Full-time
Blue Ridge	78	44
Central Virginia	73	44
D. S. Lancaster	65	35
Danville	68	38
Eastern Shore	65	30
Germanna	70	38
J. S. Reynolds	81	54
John Tyler	78	55
Lord Fairfax	73	44
Mtn. Empire	53	23
New River	68	37
Northern Va.	63	41
Patrick Henry	78	52
Paul D. Camp	68	36
Piedmont Va.	78	50
Rappahannock	66	35
Southside Va.	65	35
Southwest Va.	57	33
Thomas Nelson	71	43
Tidewater	66	37
Va. Highlands	61	30
Va. Western	75	45
Wytheville	63	34
VCCS	68	41

No college had fewer than 50 percent of students working. For five colleges, working student percentages approached 80 percent of the total student population, the highest being J. Sargeant Reynolds C.C. at 81 percent.

For several colleges, over half of the total student population was working full-time while enrolled.

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[1] Employment information obtained through an agreement with the Virginia Employment Commission to use unemployment insurance wage records for academic planning and evaluation. College-specific student records with employer information are available for college use. Federally owned employers are not included.

A profile of the businesses and industries employing VCCS students shows that community colleges serve employees from all segments of the Virginia economy.

Percentage of Employers by Major Division of Economic Activities

Major SIC Division	VCCS Student Employers	All Virginia Employers
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	2.6	.9
Mining	.4	.4
Construction	7.5	6.0
Manufacturing	7.1	13.2
Transportation	3.6	6.2
Wholesale Trade	6.2	4.6
Retail Trade	26.2	18.4
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	5.5	5.3
Services	39.1	38.2
Public Administration	1.5	6.5
Nonclassifiable	.4	.2

Using standard classification divisions for business and industry, the distribution of firms employing VCCS students is similar to that for all employers in Virginia. One exception, not unexpected, is in Retail Trade, a major employer generally and provider of flexible, part-time employment to younger students.

VCCS student employers profiled above numbered over 20,000 or more than 10 percent of all businesses and industries in Virginia.

Information and high technology firms[1] are more likely to be an employer of a community college student. VCCS students are employed at over 50 percent of Virginia's "high tech" firms.

[1]Subdivisions of the major groups on the next page were combined to approximate the Information and Technology Sectors of NAICS (North American Industry Classification System).

Services providers, as is the case for most Virginians, employ most VCCS students. Major groups in the Services sector employing the largest number of students are Health, Business, Education, and Engineering-Management.

Number and percent of working VCCS students by type of business and industry. Categories are major groups of SIC divisions.

	Number	Percent
AGRIC-LIVESTOCK	43	0.1
AGRIC-SERVICES	677	0.8
FORESTRY-FISH	9	0.0
COAL MINING	587	0.7
OIL AND GAS	8	0.0
NONMETAL MINING	104	0.1
CONSTRUC-BLDG	579	0.7
CONSTRUC-HEAVY	472	0.6
CONSTRUC-TRADE	1560	1.9
MFG- FOOD	506	0.6
MFG- TOBACCO	106	0.1
MFG- TEXTILE	753	0.9
MFG- APPAREL	275	0.3
MFG- LUMBER/WOOD	320	0.4
MFG- FURNITURE	341	0.4
MFG- PAPER	423	0.5
MFG- PRNT/PUBLSH	868	1.0
MFG- CHEMICALS	443	0.5
MFG- PETRO REFIN	8	0.0
MFG- RUBBER/PLAS	442	0.5
MFG- LEATHER	13	0.0
MFG- GLASS/CONCR	200	0.2
MFG- METALS	207	0.2
MFG- FAB. METALS	336	0.4
MFG- MACH/COMPUT	758	0.9
MFG- ELEC EX COM	997	1.2
MFG- TRAN EQUIP	976	1.2
MFG- INSTRUMENTS	274	0.3
MFG- MISC	100	0.1
TRAN-LOCAL TRANS	170	0.2
TRAN-MTR FREIGHT	431	0.5
TRAN-WATER	86	0.1
TRAN-AIR	829	1.0
TRAN-SERVICES	198	0.2
TRAN-COMMUNICAT	840	1.0
TRAN-ELEC/GAS	515	0.6
WHOLESALE-DURABL	1699	2.0
WHOLESALE-NONDUR	1094	1.3
RETAIL-HDWE/BLDG	839	1.0
RETAIL-GEN MERCH	3885	4.6
RETAIL-FOOD	4490	5.3
RETAIL-AUTO/GAS	1698	2.0
RETAIL-APPAREL	1716	2.0
RETAIL-HOME FURN	1402	1.7
RETAIL-EAT/DRINK	9167	10.9
RETAIL-MISC	3643	4.3
FINANCE-DEPOSIT	1904	2.3
FINANCE-NONDEPOS	566	0.7
FINANCE-SECURITI	76	0.1
FINANCE-INSUR CO	696	0.8
FINANCE-INS SRVS	286	0.3
FINANCE-REAL EST	809	1.0
FINANCE-HOLDING	65	0.1
SERVICE-LODGING	1281	1.5
SERVICE-PERSONAL	875	1.0
SERVICE-BUSINESS	5777	6.9
SERVICE-AUTO	531	0.6
SERVICE-REPAIR	197	0.2
SERVICE-MOVIES	718	0.9
SERVICE-AMUSMNT	1188	1.4
SERVICE-HEALTH	7289	8.7
SERVICE-LEGAL	604	0.7
SERVICE-EDUCAT	5737	6.8
SERVICE-SOCIAL	2487	3.0
SERVICE-MUS/GAL	128	0.2
SERVICE-CLUBS	728	0.9
SERVICE-ENG/MGT	2705	3.2
SERVICE-HSEHOLD	276	0.3
SERVICE-MISC	22	0.0
PUBLIC ADMIN	3839	4.6
NONCLASSIFIABLE	95	0.1
Total Students Working	84058	

Overall most students work, but what are the differences among VCCS student subgroups?

Student Demographics

Gender	Working FT	Working PT	Not Working
Female	40%	28%	32%
Male	44%	25%	31%
Race/Ethnicity			
American Ind	33%	28%	39%
Black	40%	27%	33%
Asian	36%	27%	37%
Other	35%	26%	39%
Hispanic	42%	22%	36%
White	42%	27%	31%
Age			
Under 18	2%	55%	43%
18 to 21	24%	50%	26%
22 to 24	46%	27%	27%
25 to 34	52%	16%	32%
35 to 44	54%	11%	35%
45 to 59	55%	9%	36%
60 and over	24%	13%	63%

Student/Academic Characteristics

Student Status	Working FT	Working PT	Not Working
First-time	24%	42%	34%
Returning	46%	23%	31%
Transfer	44%	21%	35%
Enrollment Status			
Full-time	18%	47%	35%
Part-time	50%	19%	31%
Program			
College Transfer	36%	33%	31%
Occ-Technical	42%	25%	33%
Unclassified	46%	23%	31%
Developmental Coursework			
Math only	30%	39%	31%
English only	28%	41%	31%
Math & English	19%	49%	32%
None	44%	24%	32%

Generally, working versus not working varies more with student demographics than with academic program or course-taking factors. Most VCCS students work unless they are very young or of retirement age.

How much they work, whether full- or part-time, does vary with several characteristics. As would be expected, course load is also a factor.

Gender

- Likelihood of working is about the same for males and females, but more males are employed full-time.

Race/Ethnicity

- Minority students are slightly less likely to be working. If working, white, black, and Hispanic students are more likely to have full-time jobs.

Age

- The youngest(18 and under) and oldest(60 and over) groups are least likely to be working, but this youngest category has the highest percentage of students working part-time.
- The '18 to 21' age group has the highest percentage of working students, 74 % for full- and part-time combined. The '22 to 24' group is next most likely to be employed.
- Generally, percentages of students employed full-time increase with age up to the '60 and over' category.
- After age 18, the percentage of students not working increases with each increasing age category.

Status

- New students, first-time and transfer, are less likely to be working than returning students.
- Returning and transfer students are much more likely to be employed full-time.

Course Load

- Most VCCS students attend class part-time and work full-time. Full-time students are more likely to work only part-time.
- It is noteworthy that 20 percent of the students carrying a full load also hold down a full-time job.

Student Major

- Working or not varies little with program area. Transfer majors are more likely to work part-time. More O-T and unclassified students work full-time.

Developmental

- The working-not working percentages are nearly the same regardless of developmental requirements, but developmental students are much less likely to be working full-time.